



FOCAL POINTS



Newsletter of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies
Issue No. 37 Summer 2018

Easter Eggstravaganza



Ready Steady Snip with Lorraine Saunders, Stephanie Cornell and Sara Steward



Fabulous Final Stage – Jane Haas with Lorena Dyer



Irene Manson and Jane Haas – The Easter Bunny

Chairman's Message



This is proving to be one of the busiest years for our Area for a long time. By the time you read this issue of Focal Points many of you will have produced arrangements or friendship bouquets for **National Flower Arranging Day**, some will have exhibited at **Chelsea** and many of you will have seen **Derek Armstrong's** wonderful demonstration at Maidenhead. All of these events took place in May and were too close to the deadline for inclusion in this issue. Hopefully there will be room in the September edition to include photographs of these events in addition to your exhibits at the **Blenheim Palace Flower Show**.

Looking back to March, our Area Members' Day "**Easter Eggstravaganza**" was a huge success and a sell out! The event raised £1,843.90 towards the cost of the Flower Festival. Thank you so much for your support and for your comments saying how much you had enjoyed the day. We have evidently got the formula just right and are already working on ideas for next year.

I hope as many of you as possible will be supporting the **Blenheim Palace Flower Show** later in June. We need plenty of entries in the competitions and exhibition to make a visit to the marquee worthwhile for the public. Last year's designs were exceptional and you can't fail to have seen the wonderful article and photographs in the Flower Arranger magazine.

In July some of our clubs will once again be staging large exhibits under the portico of St George's School at the **Royal Windsor Rose & Horticultural Society's Summer Show**. This year's theme is a celebration of the centenary of the RAF. (Quite a challenge). Last year H.R.H. the Countess of Wessex toured the show and chatted to the exhibitors. In August we shall be manning a publicity stand at the **Bucks County Show** and in September we have some intriguing plans for a floral photo frame at the **Royal Berkshire Show**. Details of all these events are on the Area website.

You will all know by now about "**Footsteps**" the **Flower Festival** which the Area is staging at the beautiful, historic Abbey at Dorchester-on-Thames. This is entailing a huge amount of work by the organising committee. If you are not one of the exhibitors, make sure the dates are in your diaries and do come along with your families and friends to support this event. Further details elsewhere in this edition. Programmes will be available to buy or to pick up (if you have pre-ordered), at the September Council meeting.

Finally, thank you so much to those clubs which have invited me to attend their anniversary celebrations recently: Sonning 50, Bourne End 55, Stony Stratford 60 and Royal Windsor 60 years. It was lovely to meet all your members; not just those who attend the Area events.

Alison Mount chairman@bbandoflowers.org.uk

STOP PRESS



Angela Edmonds from Greys Flora won a silver gilt at the Malvern Spring Show in May. The class title was 'A light bulb moment'. Congratulations to Angela!

Easter Eggstravaganza

The Easter Eggstravaganza was a brilliant day out, full of fun with so much happening throughout the day. We watched flower demonstrations, enjoyed retail therapy, had a delicious lunch and a scrumptious tea. The chocolate fountain was yummy! We had time to chat to other people and discuss the People's Choice awards at length. There was a real buzzy atmosphere all day. Thanks to all involved - we can't wait for the next event!

Flower Club member



*Decorated Egg – Judges Choice
Ann Dawson from Bladon & Woodstock*



*Decorated Egg – People's Choice
Carol Doughty from Wantage*



*Easter Basket – Judges Choice – Shirley Sexton from
Caversham & Chiltern*



*Easter Basket – People's Choice – Sue Starr from
Stony Stratford*

Diamond Celebrations at Royal Windsor

On 1st May Royal Windsor celebrated its diamond jubilee with a splendid lunch at Gardeners Hall, Windsor. As we celebrated our thoughts turned to our foundation.

Did you know we grew out of The Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society which was formed in 1892! Head gardeners of local estates vied with each other to be the best and most colourful and two local gentlemen formed the society in cooperation with those Head Gardeners. Their first show was held in 1892 and soon Queen Victoria took a personal interest sending roses down for the show. In 1895 she graciously gave permission for the show to be held in the private grounds of Windsor Castle and in 1897 (her own diamond jubilee year) she presented a cup for roses which were then sent to her dinner table! A true royal heritage for one of the oldest societies in Windsor.

Fast forward to 1958. The Show was becoming one of the social events of the year with royal visitors. The chairman Mr. Dennis Lightfoot was very aware that the floral arrangements were a vital part of the show. One Mrs. Ida Somes who served on the Society committee proposed that a separate Floral Club be formed. Elders of the Committee expressed considerable doubt about the wisdom of such a radical proposal, but it was finally agreed that seven ladies could form the new society. Their first committee meeting closed with a toast to the club and agreement the subscription should be 10/6d. That year there were 18 flower arranging classes in the show schedule! Sadly how times change!

Over the years the club thrived and for many years membership was well over 100. We have been privileged to have many outstanding arrangers as members, but to name just a couple who many would know or remember: Mrs. Elizabeth Gidman, NAFAS National Associate of Honour, and Mrs. Brenda Spearing have both been chairmen. Their influence and expertise remains legendary.

But what of now? We are 60 years old! We are in good heart as we look forward. Membership remains at over 50 and we are fortunate to have members who are prepared to make tea, clear the hall and indeed raise very necessary funds to keep us going. At heart we want to be a welcoming club, serving the local community and sharing our love of flowers and gardening. That is what we hope to achieve. We still manage a monthly competition and learn from that. We are delighted that local clubs have now joined us at the Society's Summer Show in Windsor creating large displays. This has proved a happy initiative, showcasing excellence in local talent.

May we all continue to thrive!

Wendy Godrich, President



The Queen Mother with founder member Mrs Ida Somes

Blenheim 2018

Midsummer madness is to descend on Blenheim this year when BB&O present an open competition and exhibition at the Flower Show in June. The schedule is on the Area website but just to whet your appetite I can tell you that there is a semi-imposed class and an art in the environment class as well as a few favourites for you all to be inspired by. For the exhibition I am hoping clubs will want to show off their talents with the title "A Summer Wedding" where you can go mad with ideas! I am looking forward to receiving lots of entries from the many talented arrangers that we have in BB&O.

Jackie Page- Blenheim Show Chairman

BB&O AREA of NAFAS Floral Art Competition & Exhibition



MIDSUMMER MADNESS



www.bbandoflowers.org.uk

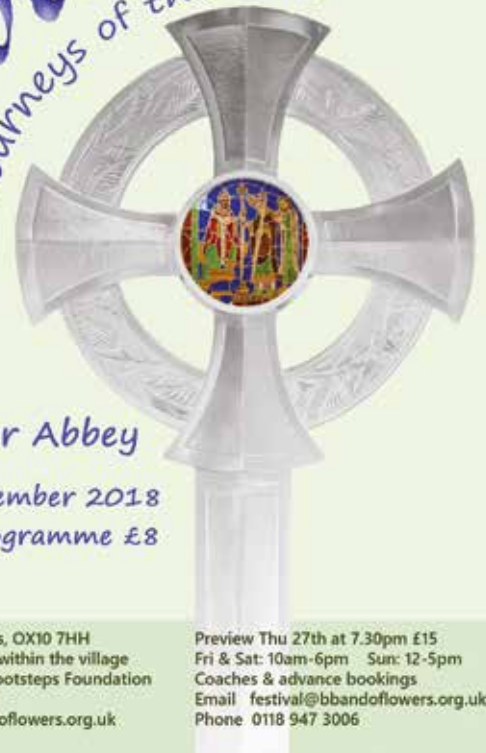


Festival of Flowers

Berks Bucks & Oxon Area of NAFAS presents

Footsteps

Journeys of the Soul



Dorchester Abbey

28-30 September 2018

Entry by programme £8

Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HH
Refreshment facilities within the village
Festival proceeds to Footsteps Foundation
and Dorchester Abbey
More details at bbandoflowers.org.uk

Preview Thu 27th at 7.30pm £15
Fri & Sat: 10am-6pm Sun: 12-5pm
Coaches & advance bookings
Email festival@bbandoflowers.org.uk
Phone 0118 947 3006

Plans are well under way for the festival – the major floral event for the Area this year. Most of our clubs have agreed to take part; positions in the abbey have been allocated and titles selected for the interpretation of a variety of journeys, pathways and footsteps. Timeslots for several coaches have been filled so don't leave it too late to book if your club is planning to visit by coach. Nearer the time help with stewarding will be very much appreciated (you will receive a free entry programme). For more information please contact the festival secretary Carole Dorward on 01635 200229 or email carole.dorward@gmail.com

AGM – 16th November

Tickets will be on sale at the September Council meeting for the lunch and afternoon demonstration. This year's title is "Christmas Carols" and will be presented by Carol Bennett, Carole Dorward and Carol Ferris. Full details and application form will be available on the Area website shortly.

BB&O will be there

Officers and representatives from BB&O will be very busy over the coming months promoting the area at various public events, including

- Blenheim Palace Flower Show: 22-24th June where the BB&O is managing the Midsummer Madness Competition and Exhibition
- Hampton Court Palace Flower Show: 2nd-8th July where BB&O will be working with Surrey and London & Overseas Areas to stage a significant NAFAS exhibit
- Royal Windsor Rose Show: Sat 14th July where several local clubs will be staging exhibits to mark the centenary of the RAF
- Bucks County Show: Thu 30th August in Thame
- Berks County Show: 15th-16th September at Newbury Showground, where the Area is organising hands-on sessions and a floral frame for the public to pose and take photos – a great opportunity for instant publicity as members of the public love to post photos on social media.

At most of these events we will be taking our media display so if your club has any promotional fliers please send them to me. I would also love to hear from you if you are able to help on any of these occasions – there are usually free tickets to the relevant event for helpers.

Many of our members and clubs compete at these shows so why not go along and see what talent we have? Or even better – why not compete yourself?

Shirley Sexton, Area Media Officer

Club Demonstrations

June

- 19 Lorena Dyer at Wantage
- 19 Lorraine Saunders at Chieveley
- 20 Kate Thomas at High Wycombe
- 20 Ann Anson at Gerrards Cross
- 20 Jane Haas at Riverside
- 25 Lionel Clark at Aylesbury
- 25 Sachiko Pearce at Finchampstead
- 25 Christine Nash at Thames Valley
- 26 Nadira Bhurki at Bicester
- 26 Jane Haas at Maidenhead
- 28 Gill McGregor at Four Ends
- 28 Katherine Kear at Oxford

- 3 Claire Bryant at Bourne End
- 3 Sally Hardy at Stony Stratford
- 4 Jan Yardley at Old Windsor
- 5 Keri Harvey at Holyport
- 5 Jackie Watson at Bramley & Romans
- 9 Theresa Rodrigues at Mortimer
- 10 Claire Bryant at Twyford
- 10 Keri Walker at Newbury
- 11 Sue Tausig at Wokingham
- 11 Sally Hardy at Bracknell
- 12 Keri Walker at Sonning
- 17 Alison Suffolk at Wantage
- 17 Coral Gardiner at Chieveley
- 18 Carol Blighton at Earley
- 18 Graham King at Gerrards Cross
- 23 Alison Mount at Finchampstead
- 23 Vijay Bhatia at Chalfont
- 24 Irene Manson at Bicester
- 25 Sally Taylor at Thame

- 26 Irene Manson at Four Ends
- 26 Carol Blighton at Chipping Norton
- 26 Anna Steven at Oxford
- 30 Lesley Sturdy at Aylesbury
- 30 Pat Dibben at Thames Valley
- 31 Anita Davey at Maidenhead

- 4 Jennifer Thompson at Woodley
- 4 Louisa Rigidon at Olney
- 4 Carol Bennett at Royal Windsor
- 4 Jo Poulter at Stony Stratford
- 5 Graham King at Sandhurst & Crowthorne
- 5 Sachiko Pearce at Old Windsor
- 6 Kate Thomas at Harmondsworth
- 6 Jane Haas at Bramley & Romans
- 10 Wendy Lawrence at Mortimer
- 10 Alison Suffolk at Bladon & Woodstock
- 11 Alison Gillott at Twyford
- 11 Stephanie Cornell at Newbury
- 12 Stephanie Cornell at Bracknell
- 12 Nadira Burki and Wallingford
- 12 Lorraine Saunders at Wokingham
- 12 Jackie Page at Caversham
- 13 Sally Hardy at Sonning

July

- 3 Jackie Page at Woodley
- 3 Carol Blighton at Abingdon

August

- 7 Anna Stevens at Abingdon
- 8 Helen Hare at Caversham
- 9 Kate Thomas at Sonning
- 13 Melanie Smith at Mortimer
- 20 Dawn Keitly at Aylesbury
- 22 Helen Hare at Thame

September

- 4 Sandra Gunner at Brackley
- 4 Theresa Rodrigues at Abingdon
- 4 Robin White at Bourne End

Disclaimer

The editorial team is not responsible for the accuracy of contributions in this newsletter or the views expressed within.

Next issue

The next issue of Focal Points will be available on Monday 3rd September 2018. We welcome contributions from all clubs and individuals - but please no later than Wed 25th July 2018.

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Design from the May Day School Step into Summer with Irene Manson

A Day School

What's in it for you?

At every area day school you will meet new people who want to learn more about the wonderful art of flower arranging. Complete beginners mix with those who take an idea and transform it, both learning from each other. We aim to provide an entertaining day, full of fun and hopefully new experiences.

So why don't you bring A friend along and join in? The next one is on Saturday, October 6th, at Holmer Green village Hall, HP15 6XG from 9.30 - 12.00 and we welcome non NAFAS members along as well. I will be the tutor for this one, where we will be making "Parcels of Autumn Colour". For more information have a look on the Area website or contact me, Jackie Page on 01869 340407 or jackiep.page@gmail.com.

What's Coming up

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|------------------|---|
| 22-24th June | Midsummer Madness - Blenheim Palace Flower Show: |
| 10-12th Aug | Masquerade - NAFAS Weekend in Leicester |
| 30th Aug | Bucks County Show, near Aylesbury |
| Mon 3rd Sep | Council Meeting in Benson |
| 15/16th Sep | Berks County Show in Newbury |
| 28-30th Sep | Footsteps - Flower Festival at Dorchester Abbey |
| Sat 6th Oct | Area Day School at Holmer Green Village Hall |
| 29/30th Oct | NAFAS National and Pre-National Tests in Bristol |
| Fri 16th Nov | Area AGM in Benson |
| Sat 6th Dec | Area Day School at Benson |
| 8-10th Aug 2019 | NAFAS Diamond Floral Art and Design Show in London |
| Fri 9th Aug 2019 | NAFAS Dazzling Diamond Dinner in London |
- Full details of all these events can be found in the **What's On** section of bbandoflowers.org.uk

PATHS OF PEACE

Flower Festival

24 - 27 August 2018
Bank Holiday Weekend

Commemorating 100 years since the Armistice
Friday, Saturday and Monday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 11.30am - 5pm
Proceeds to SSAFA

For more info: angeshep@sky.com or 07890 203994
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Great War
The Centenary

St Mary's Beaconsfield
CHURCH

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